

APPLICANTS: Angelico and Ricci
U.S.S.N.: 09/939,225

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendments, claims 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20-23 and 34-38 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 12 and 14 are canceled herein without any intention to abandon any subject matter of these claims, but with the intention that claims of the same, lesser, or greater scope may be pursued in a later application. Claims 9 and 13 are amended herein to put them in independent form. Claim 18 is amended to more generically recite the benefit that can be obtained by reducing pollution emission to particular levels under pollution-emission regulation; support for this amendment is found, *e.g.*, at page 3, lines 4-10, and at page 7, lines 6-13. And each of the independent claims is rephrased, without changing its meaning. New claim 34 matches the scope of claim 18 before this amendment. New claims 35-39 are likewise supported, *e.g.*, at page 3, lines 4-10, and at page 7, lines 6-13. Accordingly, the present amendments do not introduce new matter.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,342,656, issued to Walsh *et al.*, in view of U.S. Patent 3,923,702, issued to Sturwold.

Applicants have herein canceled each of these claims, thereby obviating this rejection.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 10 and 13 as being dependent upon rejected base claims but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9 and 13 have been amended accordingly. Claim 10 is dependent upon claim 9 and therefore need not also be made independent. Claim 13 has also been amended to clarify the language used therein and to more closely match the text at page 2, lines 21-22, of the specification; the substance of the claim is not intended to be changed with this amendment.

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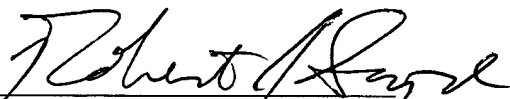
The Examiner held that claims 15-18 and 20-23 were allowable. Claim 18, though amended in regard to the benefit under pollution-emission regulation, retains the original features that the examiner indicated were not taught in the prior art.

As claims 34-38 depend from claims 9, 13, 15, 16 and 20, Applicants respectfully request that these new claims likewise be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and cancellation of rejected claims, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding these amendments and remarks or any outstanding concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Jason Mirabito, Reg. No. 28,161

Robert J. Sayre, Reg. No. 42,124

Attorney(s) for Applicants

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS,
GLOVSKY and POPEO, P.C.

***Address all written correspondence to
Customer no.: 30623***

Tel: (617) 542-6000

Fax: (617) 542-2241

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